REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and the following remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action issued on January 13, 2005 in connection with the above-identified patent application, and are being filed within the three-month shortened statutory period set for a response by the Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 25, 29, and 30 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-5, 11-13, 16-18, 21-23, 26-28 and 31-33 have been canceled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled claims 3 and 5, and all other independent claims have been similarly amended. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims consistent with the following remarks.

Preliminarily, Applicants note that the Examiner has objected to claim 10 for a minor grammatical error. Such error has been corrected.

Applicants note that inasmuch as independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled claims 3 and 5, and all other independent claims have been similarly amended, the rejection of claim 1 shall be dealt with in terms of the rejection of claim 5, and likewise for all other independent claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 (5), 2, 6-9 (13), 10, 14 (18), 15, 19 (23), 20, 24 (28), 25, 29 (33), and 30 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Yoshiura (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,720) in view of Watney (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,398). Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103(a) rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a computer system for receiving encrypted compressed content and for producing decrypted decompressed content based on the received encrypted compressed content. In the system, a decryption element decrypts the content based at least in part on a content key, and a decompression element decompresses the content based at least in part on the content key. Thus, the content key is employed to decrypt the content and also to decompress the content. As amended, claim 1 also recites that the decompression element has a number of adjustable parameters and employs the content key as at least one of the adjustable parameters. In particular, the decompression element includes a quantizer for performing a lossy quantization step, and the quantizer is de-dithered according to the content key.

Independent claim 9 recites subject matter similar to that of claim 1, albeit in the form of a computer system for encrypting and compressing. Independent claim 14 recites subject matter similar to that of claim 1, albeit in the form of a method for decrypting and decompressing. Independent claim 19 recites subject matter similar to that of claim 1, albeit in the form of a method for encrypting and compressing. Independent claim 24 recites subject matter similar to that of claim 1, albeit in the form of a computer readable medium with instructions thereon for decrypting and decompressing. Finally, independent claim 29 recites subject matter similar to that of claim 1, albeit in the form of a computer readable medium with instructions for encrypting and compressing.

Thus, the invention as recited in the independent claims of the present application employs a content key both to encrypt / decrypt content and to compress / decompress the content, and in particular compresses / decompresses the content by way of a

quantizer performing a lossy quantization. As a result, without the content key, neither such

encryption / decryption nor such compression / decompression may be performed.

Thus, the present invention essentially requires that encryption / decryption

and compression / decompression be performed together. Accordingly, compressed content

is essentially gibberish to a content thief unless such content thief has the content key (KD) to

be employed during decompression of such compressed content.

The Yoshiura reference discloses a system that both encrypts / decrypts

content and compresses / decompresses the content based on a work key 116 (Fig. 1).

However, and as the Examiner concedes, the Yoshiura compression / decompression is not

based on a quantizer performing a lossy quantization, as is required by the claims of the

present application. Nevertheless, the Examiner continues by pointing to the Watney

reference as disclosing such a quantizer, and then concluding based on the combination of the

Yoshiura and Watney references that the claims of the present application are obvious.

However, Applicants respectfully point out that although the Watney reference

discloses compressing / decompressing content based on a quantizer performing a lossy

quantization, such Watney reference utterly fails to appreciate or even suggest that such a

quantizer could or should operate by employing a content key, as is required by the claims of

the present application. Moreover, such Watney reference utterly fails to appreciate or even

suggest that such quantizer could or should operate by employing a content key that is also

employed to perform encryption / decryption with respect to such content, as is also required

by the claims of the present application. Further, neither the Yoshiura nor the Watney

references alone or combined demonstrates any appreciation that by requiring that encryption

/ decryption and compression / decompression be performed together, compressed content is

essentially gibberish to a content thief unless such content thief has the content key (KD) to

be employed during decompression of such compressed content.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Yoshiura and Watney references

cannot be combined to make obvious the subject matter of claims 1, (5), 9 (13), 14 (18), 19

(23), 24 (28), or 29 (33), or any claims depending therefrom including claims 2, 6-8, 10, 15,

20, 25, and 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal
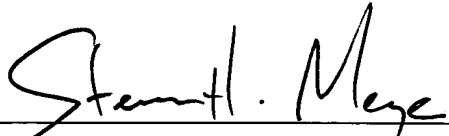
of the section 103(a) rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present

application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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